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Abraham Lincoln Before 1860

Allen Gentry

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection The family Bible of Allen Gentry, with whom Abraham Lincoln made his memorable Flat-boat trip down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

The trip was from Rockport, Indiana, while Lincoln was but an over-grown, awkward boy from the hill country around Lincoln City, which was in after years named in his honor. It was to this Allen Gentry that Lincoln made the statement so quoted in history as evidence of his early disfavor of slavery as practiced in the southern States of the Union; "If I ever get a chance to hit that thing(slavery), I'll hit it and hit it hard."

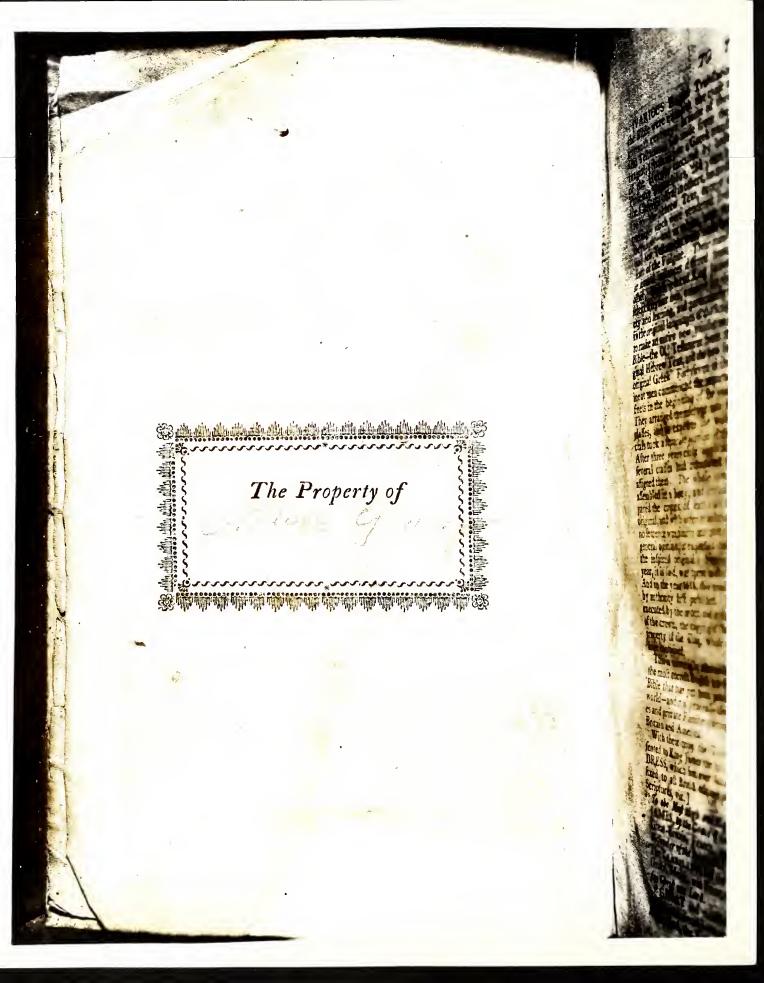
Allen Gentry is the grandfather of Mrs. Addie Haines Brown who, with her husband, Frederick Howard Brown, took me from the Orphanage at Rockport, Indiana, on St. Valentines day in the year 1900. Mrs. Brown is the daughter of Mary E. Gentry Haines and Willis Haines. Mary E Gentry, as the accompaning photographs of the records contained in this book show, was a daughter of Allen Gentry, born the 27th of November 1832. This Bible, published by Anson Whipple, Walpole, N.H. in the year 1815, is at present (March 1936) the property of the above mentioned Mr. Addie Haines Brown, residing at Rockport, Indiana.

While it's paper is yellowing with age, every word is easily discerned. Having been published before 1827, when the British Bible Society, by vote, excluded them from the canon, this Bible contains all of the books of the Apocrypha group. It contains also the ADDRESS with which the translators presented King James of Great Britain the manuscript of the so-called King James Version of the Holy Bible, in the year 1611. It's leather binding is in perfect condition after 121 years.

Signed,

Rev. Ira M. Williams





FAMILY RECORD. Janus Gonting was goleen Gartay September

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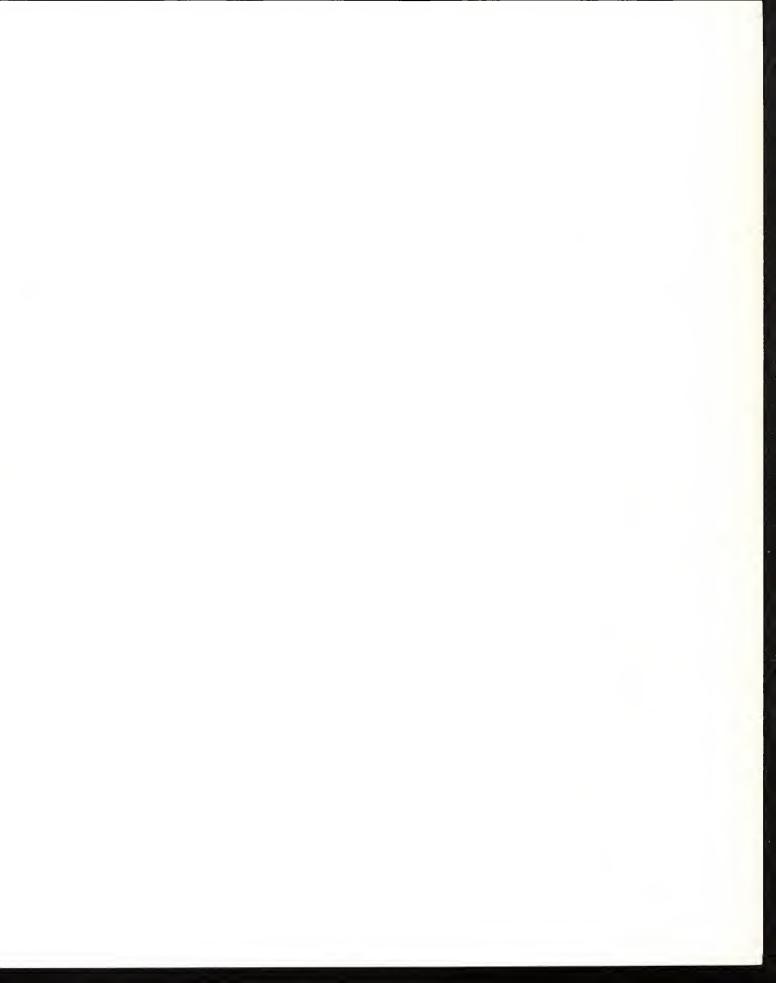
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FAMILY RECORD.

MARRIAGES.

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We, the descendents of Allen Gentry, resent many false statements made by Lincoln biographers, concerning a flatboat trip to New Orleans from Gentry's Landing in Rockport, Indiana.

Abraham Lincoln went as oarsman on Allen Gentry's flatboat in December 1828.

They left from Gentry's landing, where a marker now stands. Phree generations of Gentrys flatboated from this spot.

The flatboats were built down the river about one-half a mile from the landing, then paddled upstream to the landing when it was time to load the boat for the southern trip.

These trips were always made in the late fall or early winter after the summer crops were gathered, hogs butchered, lard rondered and everything was macked.

Then in New Orleans, Gentry and Lincoln witnessed a slave market, and Lincoln, on seeing a slave sold said to Tentry, "If I ever get a chance to bit that thing, I'll hit it hard".

Allen Centry told his family of this remark after the return from New Orleans, and retold it many times during his lifetime.

There are the true facts. Different biographers say that Lincoln never made such a trip from Rockbort, Indiana; others that Sentry's landing was not the place from which the flatboat left; others say Lincoln never made the remark about slavery; some say he made the remark on an Illinois flatboat trip; several writers say the flatboat trip was made in April.

Lewis Gentry, grandson of Allen Gentry, and also a flatboat man (the third and last of the generation to make the flatboat trips) said that the Centrys always made their trips in the fall and early winter. He spoke often of the New Orleans trip which his grandfather and Lincoln made in 1828, and told how his father, Absolem Centry, related the facts of the trip and Lincoln's remark about slavery, as told to him by his father, Allen Centry.

Te, the Centry descendants, heard all there facts as children, from our parents, from our brother, uncle and cousin, Lewis Gentry, and know them to be true.

We are interested in the preservation of the Centry's flatboat landing at Rockport, Indiana as a national historical shrine.

(signed)

(name)

(address)

(relation to Allen Centry)

This was signed by 25 descendants of allen Kentry and sent to Congressman Bailey Merrill.



